

EAST LONGMEADOW RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SPORT CODE OF CONDUCT

Children's sports are supposed to be fun for the *children*. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

That is why the **National Youth Sports Safely Foundation (NYSSF)**, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth in sports, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports, convened a consensus meeting with representatives from more than thirty, sports, medical, educational and professional organizations to create a **Code of Conduct** upon which this one is modeled for parents and spectators to abide by at every E.L. game home or away. The Sport Code of Conduct can also be found at www.eastlongmeadowma.gov Parents, family members, fans and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about.....**FUN FOR EVERYONE!!**

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and SIX core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I therefore agree:

1. I and my guests will not force my child to participate in sports
2. I and my guests will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I and my guests will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I and my guests will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I and my guests will be positive role models for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting events.
6. I and my guest will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I and my guests will not encourage any behavior or practices that would endanger the health and well being of an athlete.
8. I and my guest will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I and my guest will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ability.
10. I and my guests will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I and my guest will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I and my guest will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I and my guest will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning, I and my guests will also deemphasize games and competition in the younger age groups.
14. I and my guest will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I and my guest will respect the officials and their authority during games and I and my guests will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or officials at the game field, and I and my guests will take time to speak with coaches at an alternately agreed upon time and place.
16. I and my guests will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I and my guest will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I and my guest will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I or my guests fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I and my guests will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not limited to the following nor must the disciplinary action be issued in the below sequence:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league or organization
- Written warning by head of league or organization
- Game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization(s) involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Season(s) probation and or Season(s) suspension of spectator privileges by head of league and or organization
- Please see the **Violence in Youth Sports Policy** regarding consequences. It is available at the Office or online.

Print Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

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